

ABSTRACT

An abrasive electrolyte solution adapted for thinning a layer on a substrate without contaminating the substrate. The abrasive electrolyte solution includes an electrically conductive fluid that is substantially free of materials that are reactive within a desired operating voltage potential range, and substantially free of materials that inhibit
5 desired reactions within the desired operating voltage potential range. Also included are abrasive particles that have a size that is small enough for the particles to substantially remain in suspension in the electrically conductive fluid, and large enough for the particles to provide a desired degree of erosion of the layer on the substrate when the abrasive electrolyte solution is forced against the layer on the substrate.

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